

# STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Tacoma CTP Visitor Center  
2201 Portland Avenue, Tacoma

## Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

### ATTENDEES:

*Work Group Members and Alternates, and the Organizations or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:*

**Neil Aaland** (Assn. of WA Cities and WA Assn. of Counties), Local Governments; **Shayne Cothorn** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Tim Determan** (WDOH), State Agencies; **Rich Doenges** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Ken Dzinbal** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Tony Paulson** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Tom Putnam** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co.), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WA Conservation Commission), Agriculture; **Bruce Wulkan** (Partnership), State Agencies.

*Work Group Staff:* **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), Project Manager.

*Others in attendance:* **Jim West**, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

### WORK GROUP SELECTS CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE COMING TWO YEARS

Jim Simmonds was chosen for a second term as Work Group Chair. Tom Putnam was chosen as Vice Chair.

### WORK GROUP ADOPTS 2011-2012 WORK PLAN

The Work Plan Subgroup presented a revised work plan reflecting the discussions at our previous meeting. The work group members proposed and approved changes to several tasks, and re-affirmed the purpose and scope of the work group and its focus on Puget Sound stormwater issues. After agreeing on a number of changes to the wording of specific tasks, the work group members unanimously adopted the 2011-2012 Work Plan. The work plan is expected to be updated annually to provide detail for the second half of the planning period and begin planning work to be done in the following calendar year. Work group members also agreed that changes to our bylaws are not needed at this time.

### WORK GROUP TASKS TWO NEW SUBGROUPS TO IMPLEMENT NEWLY ADOPTED WORK PLAN

The first is the Agricultural Lands Subgroup (Work Plan Task 10), which the Conservation Commission will staff and lead. The subgroup will develop recommendations for monitoring agricultural runoff that complement the municipal stormwater runoff monitoring proposed in the SWG's October 2010 recommendations, and fit within the 2010 Strategy released in June. Carol Smith, Rich Doenges, Heather Kibbey, Dino Marshalonis, and someone from Ecology (to be identified by Bill Moore) will be on this subgroup. Work group members and others interested in participating in this subgroup should contact Carol at [bioforsalmon@comcast.net](mailto:bioforsalmon@comcast.net). Carol will set up the first meeting. Karen Dinicola will post subgroup materials on the SWG support webpage.

The second is the Action Agenda Updates Subgroup (Work Plan Task 8) to coordinate SWG input on stormwater and monitoring sections of the updates which the Partnership is just beginning to develop. This subgroup includes –in addition to Bruce Wulkan and the SWG members (Jim Simmonds, Tom Putman, and Allison Butcher; see <http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/AA2011/RecoveryTargets.pdf>) the Partnership invited to assist in

developing targets for runoff from developed lands— others interested in providing feedback into the broader process of updating the Action Agenda for Puget Sound Recovery. Kit Paulsen or Joyce Nichols will join this subgroup, which will report at our next meeting on March 16. Karen will set up the first meeting, likely a conference call. This subgroup will be active throughout the update process this year.

Karen will send out a message to the entire SWG email list inviting members and others to participate in these new subgroups and informing them of the upcoming meeting dates for all of our subgroups.

### **WORK GROUP DISCUSSES NEARSHORE STATUS AND TRENDS MONITORING DESIGN**

Jim West answered work group members' questions about Mussel Watch, including technical aspects of the program and the possibility that discontinued federal funding for sites in Puget Sound might impact our recommendations to leverage the ongoing effort. The Partnership plans to fund WDFW to do a feasibility study this calendar year for utilizing mussels as an indicator as proposed by the SWG, including an inventory of mussel populations. If mussels are determined to be unfeasible, then another biota indicator will need to be identified.

The SWG's October 2010 recommendations are somewhat unclear as to whether the permittee-funded marine nearshore monitoring should be focused randomly inside UGA's or near stormwater outfalls. The work group tasked the Nearshore Status and Trends Monitoring Oversight Subgroup with resolving this and other technical and monitoring design questions.

### **WORK GROUP DISCUSSES UPCOMING DRAFT MONITORING PERMIT LANGUAGE**

In addition to proposing an SWG role in overseeing Ecology's administration of permittee-contributed funds, the Pooled Resources Oversight Subgroup will try to provide input on cost allocations among local jurisdictions. Some Work Group members misunderstood whether Ecology or the SWG would determine cost allocations but generally appreciated Ecology's intended approach of providing more than one option or approach with preliminary draft language, and possibly providing a spreadsheet for the public to use in proposing other alternatives. Rich Doenges will join the Pooled Resources Oversight Subgroup.

Bill Moore responded to the work group's request for an extended comment period on preliminary draft permit monitoring language this coming May with "yes and no": the end of May deadline for comments is firm. However, Ecology will still consider comments and recommendations from the work group that arrive late. That said, a major delay in providing input is not compatible with the internal process for getting out the formal draft permit in October, when Ecology will likely hold a three-month public comment period on the formal draft permits.

### **WORK GROUP TASKS COMMUNICATION SUBGROUP WITH UPDATING INTERESTED PARTIES**

The Communication Subgroup suggested a number of topics be included in the next "SWG Reporter" issue to be timed to go out in early March. Work group members agreed that the subgroup should develop and send out those messages.

### **WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATES ON RELATED ACTIVITIES**

The ecosystem monitoring program draft charter will be presented to the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) and Leadership Council at their next meetings this month. They are expected to discuss, in addition to the organizational and role/responsibilities recommendations proposed in the charter, the overall governance structure of the program: whether it should be housed at the Partnership or established as an independent entity.

The ECB has formed a stormwater subcommittee which Allison Butcher is staffing. The group is drafting a vision for stormwater management in Puget Sound. Their initial focus is on how to secure funding to increase stormwater management efforts, including NPDES permit implementation and stormwater retrofits.

As part of the initial work to revise the Action Agenda by December, Bruce Wulkan is leading an invited group to help set targets for stormwater (more specifically, runoff from developed lands). The purpose is to set numerical pressure reduction objectives for 2015, 2020, and 2025 to measure progress toward Puget Sound recovery. A new

Biennial Science Work Plan and State of the Sound will also be issued, and a performance management system to track accountability will also be completed. This initial work is due to be completed by March 23 and will be discussed at the ECB meeting on April 1. Work group members expressed concern about the lack of transparency of the way the process is structured. Although several work group members were invited to participate, the work group is not currently involved in this process. The work group will become involved through the formation of the subgroup related to Task 8 in the 2011-2012 Work Plan.

The Salish Sea Conference is scheduled to take place in Vancouver, British Columbia in October 2011 and might be sparsely attended: it is unlikely that state agency personnel will be able to attend, and others are also uncertain as to their ability to participate. Session proposals are due March 1. The work group decided not to submit a proposal for a regional stormwater monitoring session.

### **WORK GROUP MEMBERS TO HEAR FROM OTHER MONITORING GROUPS FOLLOWING UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Work group members interested in hearing from other monitoring groups will need to bring their lunches for brown-bag presentations by staff /chairs of other groups following our next several meetings. The work group's upcoming meetings, expected major discussion topics, and scheduled brown-bag presentations are:

- Wednesday March 16, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the Tacoma CTP Visitor Center: hear about the streamflow gauging network analysis and indicators; hear about progress on status and trends site selection and QAPPs; discuss Action Agenda updates; discuss status of communication plan and assign action items for April outreach to elected officials. The meeting will be followed by the first in our series of brown bag presentations from other monitoring work groups, from **noon-1pm: Bruce Crawford on salmon recovery monitoring.**
- Wednesday April 20, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the USGS office in Tacoma: discuss ideas submitted for effectiveness studies; plan to implement effectiveness study topic ranking process; discussed proposal for pooled resources oversight; approve SWG comments on Action Agenda updates; hear about the Washington Stormwater Center. The meeting will be followed by the second in our series of brown bag presentations from other monitoring work groups, from **noon-1pm: Randy Shuman on Toxics Loadings.**
- Wednesday May 18, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the USGS office in Tacoma: review and discuss Ecology's preliminary draft monitoring language for NPDES municipal stormwater permits and Pooled Resources Oversight Subgroup recommendations for SWG comments; hear about initial findings of the effectiveness literature review. The meeting will be followed by the third in our series of brown bag presentations from other monitoring work groups, from **noon-1pm: Jennifer Bayer and Phil Larsen on PNAMP.**